

J. PATTON, POW, RETURNS

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"I never thought that the human body could take as much as it does," Sgt. First Class John Patton said referring to his impressions as a prisoner of war in Korea.

Sgt. Patton, or "Patch" as he is called, just returned this week to Torrance after serving 33 months as a prisoner of war. His return follows closely upon the recent return of another POW, Cpl. Daniel Arellano of Torrance.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Corso of 826 Cranbrook, who are the sister and brother-in-law of the soldier, and his mother, Mrs. J. M. Miller, did wonder at first whether Patch would want to talk of his experiences. The soldier did not mind talking about his life as a prisoner, explaining that this was after all the only thing he had to talk about.

Emotion-Filled Voice
Patch spoke in a measured, factual manner, recounting incident after incident. But ever so often a question aroused a deeply felt conviction and the soldier spoke with an emotion-filled voice.

"A person does not miss America till he's out of it... as for the Korean Reds, they talked with a good attitude but their talk and their actions were not the same... when I was informed of my release, that was the happiest day of my life... the biggest thing that kept the fellows going was rumors... what made us come out alive? I guess it was faith in God."

The statements sound flat and commonplace, but when you hear them from the previously calm and then trembling lips of a POW, you are suddenly overwhelmed by their plain, profound truth.

Patch, who is only 24, speaks with that same resignation of other POW's who have witnessed and experienced things which shall ever seem incredible.

The soldier, who was among the first at the front when the Korean conflict broke out, was captured that very year still, when the Chinese Reds entered the war and cut his outfit completely off from the rest.

Matched Nights
Patton, together with the other prisoners, were marched nights over frozen rivers and icy mountains from November to January until they arrived at the prison camp.

Many died along the way. Sixteen-hundred died at camp. At the (Continued on Page 5)

Pat Brown To Speak At Dinner

Nearly all of the 600 tickets for the 17th Congressional Homecoming dinner for Congressman Cecil King have been sold already but a few are still available for the October 10 event to be held in the Torrance Civic Auditorium.

Headlining as the main speaker will be Attorney General Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, while Congressman King will report on Congressional bills in the Ways and Means Committee.

Remaining tickets must be purchased not later than October 1 from Mrs. Irene Fraser, FA. 8-0291.



ANOTHER ONE RETURNS... Sgt. First Class John Patton is once more reunited with his mother, Mrs. J. M. Miller (R) and his sister, Mrs. Joe Corso. Patton, who was among the first at the Korean front when the war broke out, was captured shortly after and remained a POW for 33 months.

Police Chief Successor Causes Council Fight

Body Splits 3-2 Over Vacancy

Should the next police chief come from within the Torrance Police Department or should he come from without? This question was disputed heatedly at Tuesday night's City Council meeting, inasmuch as the present Chief of Police, John Stroh, is ready to retire after nearly 30 years of service to the city of Torrance.

Split

The Council divided 3 to 2 in favor of an open examination in which all interested individuals within or without the city limits of Torrance may participate.

Councilmen Willis G. Blount and Harvey B. Spelman together with Mayor Mervin M. Schwab voted for the open examination, with Councilmen Victor E. Benstead and Nicholas O. Drale opposed.

Opposed

Drale and Benstead were against the proposed amendment of the existing city ordinance calling for promotions from within, because both men believed that local Police Department personnel should have first choice at the job. The councilmen declared that there are enough qualified individuals within the department without having to look for individuals from the outside.

Kills Incentive

The two councilmen stated during and after the meeting that such a procedure as the council adopted takes all incentive out of an organization such as the police force. The councilman said that talk of resignation within the department of one of their own members were promoted did not hold water as an argument. Other city departments have made similar promotions and these minor frictions smoothed out pretty quickly. The important thing, they said, was that individuals within the department were so much more familiar with the problems of this city than someone brought in from the outside.

Contrary to City Law

Drale and Benstead maintained that the original civil service ordinance adopted by the people of this area demands that vacancies be filled from among city employees and only then can the city go outside this area when no qualified person is found.

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CRASH VICTIM CRITICAL

Harold Mevert, 37, of 3112 Winlock Dr., Waverly, was still in critical condition following an apparent head-on collision Saturday morning on Western Ave. near the U.S. Navy Fire Fighters School, San Pedro.

Dead is Vincent Corsale, driver of the other car, Corsale, 21, lived in San Pedro.

Malvert suffered compound fractures in one leg, concussion, and severe internal and chest injuries. He is presently at the Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Los Angeles.

Condition Improved

Vernon Bruns, the 16-year-old youth who tangled critically with a fork-lift at a local brick yard last week, is said to be doing fine and out of danger this week, though he will be bed-ridden for two or three months.

A brother, who has been serving in Korea, had been flown here as a result of the injury.

Bruns, who lives at 1835 W. 169th St., was seriously hurt when he jumped on a moving Hyster, slipped, and was run over by the heavy machine which was also carrying a 75-lb. load of bricks.

The episode happened just before Bruns was ready to return to school again from his summer work.

Take Steps To Acquire Oil Rights

Steps are being taken to acquire the oil and mineral rights on Torrance airport for the city of Torrance which has a lease on the airport at present though exclusive of these rights.

Councilman Victor Benstead and Nick Drale sent an urgent telegram through the Torrance Press to Representative Cecil R. King yesterday asking him to secure these rights inasmuch as the airport has been opened for oil bids.

As this paper went to press, the following reply was received:

Regarding your telegram—Have been pleased to take City of Torrance Mineral Rights up with the appropriate authority and will advise early as possible.

Regards,
CECIL KING.

At Tuesday night's City Council meeting, a committee was appointed to study this matter and the proposal of the Revo Oil Co. to attempt procuring oil rights for the city in return for certain choice drilling areas.

The all-day program annually the biggest single YMCA event in the world, will feature a variety show in the morning at Hollywood Bowl and the UCLA-California football game in the afternoon at Memorial (Continued on Page 3)

Blood Unit Coming to Torrance

The Red Cross bloodmobile will visit the Torrance Civic Auditorium on Monday, Oct. 12 from 3 to 7:30 p.m., to recruit life-giving donations of blood for the wounded of Korea and local civilian hospital.

So announced Mrs. Gordon Jones, the blood recruitment chairman, yesterday in a message urging all local citizens to sign up now for appointments to meet the mobile. Appointments to donate blood to save lives of wounded Americans (Continued on Page 5)

Largest Phone Directory Ready for Distribution

Pointing up telephone growth in the San Pedro, Lomita, Wilmington and Torrance exchanges, the largest Southern Section telephone directory ever printed is off the presses and ready for distribution to subscribers here starting next Monday, September 28.

Pacific Telephone said delivery will total more than 62,000 copies. Containing 300,000 alphabetical listings, the new book reflects the rapid growth here in an increase of 22,000 listings over last year's edition. During the past year, 5-

000 telephones have been added in the San Pedro, Lomita, Wilmington and Torrance exchanges.

Total number of alphabetical pages of the new green-covered October 1953 directory has jumped to 1,086 for an increase of 96 over the 1952 issue.

Subscribers were again reminded to check their old books before turning them in to the deliveryman, as values may have been left in the old copies.

Y Plans All-Day Festival

Boys and girls from the Torrance YMCA, serving Torrance and surrounding cities will again attend the annual Y-Day in Hollywood to be held Saturday, Oct. 31. Stan Roberts executive secretary announced this week.

The all-day program annually the biggest single YMCA event in the world, will feature a variety show in the morning at Hollywood Bowl and the UCLA-California football game in the afternoon at Memorial (Continued on Page 3)

Council Asks Hog Measure

City Attorney James Hall has been asked to draw up an ordinance providing for the elimination of all hog ranches in the city of Torrance as of October 1, 1956.

According to the ordinance it would become unlawful to maintain any pigs whatsoever in the city. A violation of this ordinance could be punished by six months in jail or \$500 fine or both. The matter will be discussed at the next agenda meeting.



ARMED TO THE TEETH, Larry the Kid, alias Larry the Pirate, alias Larry Stamper comes stalking out of the Torrance Cycle and Sports Shop in search of treasure. Pirate Larry was set right shortly afterwards when he was told that all he needed for the Kiwanis treasure hunt was a hunting license to be purchased from local merchants, a pair of good eyes, and a little luck.

HUNTERS INVADE CITY THIS WEEK

Open season will be declared on more than \$2000 worth of prizes for all "kids" from 1 to 100 who have their Kids' Day hunting licenses this Friday and Saturday. Prizes have been contributed by practically every merchant in Torrance.

The Kiwanis-sponsored event is split up in two sections.

There will be a treasure hunt for kids ten years and under, Saturday in El Prado Park starting at 1:30 p.m. Numbered capsules hidden in the grass will entitle the finder to claim a favor at a booth located there.

The giant treasure hunt for kids 10 to 100 will have the whole shopping center at its area and will last from Friday, 1 p.m. till Saturday 1 p.m. "Hunters" will look in the windows of local merchants for numbered gifts, matching the number on the hunting tickets.

Tickets for both treasure hunts are available at all Torrance merchants, the Chamber of Commerce, or from Kiwanians.

Major Prizes

Three major prizes and all unclaimed treasure hunt prizes will be awarded to lucky ticket holders Saturday at 3:30 p.m. in El Prado Park. The hunting tickets will be good for these prizes as well.

The three major prizes consist of the following: first prize—\$200 diamond dinner ring, contributed by Howard's Jewelers; second prize—\$38.35 genuine Ford car radio from Schultz and Peckham, Torrance, Ford dealers; third prize—\$50 merchandise certificate from Paul's Chevrolet.

A list of merchants contributing prizes to this event will be found in another part of this paper.

The entire proceeds from this event will be devoted to kids' activities and the help of the underprivileged. Activities last year included help to the "Learn to Swim" program; sponsorship of a boys' little league baseball team,



TRIO-PHONIC, HI-FI TV SET... That's what this set is officially called. High fidelity is an exclusive feature with Hoffman this year. The set brings a hi-fidelity sound normally found only in expensive radio-phonograph combinations. Dual speakers are also incorporated in the set. D. E. Farnelle, district sales manager for Hoffman Radio Corporation, congratulates Jim Siegrist, owner and general sales manager at Nicola's TV and Appliances, for the outstanding job done with Hoffman products. The store is located at 1875 W. Carson (near Five Points).

Bus, Car Collide; Man Dies

A collision of a Torrance bus and passenger car proved fatal for Virgil Tull of Long Beach, driver of the car, Sunday.

The bus and car were coming from opposite directions at 161st St. and Figueroa when Tull suddenly made a left turn cutting in front of the bus at the intersection. Tull died on the way to the hospital.

The bus driver sustained no injuries. There were seven passengers on the bus, with four being treated for slight injuries.

The driver was not held.

Marshall Chamberlain, Torrance bus superintendent, said that this was the first fatality the line has had after a record of seven million miles.

Palms Holds Grand Opening This Weekend

The Palms, the latest word in modern restaurants, threw open its doors to the public this week with its grand opening officially scheduled for tomorrow, September 25.

The attractive restaurant, located at 1925 W. Carson St. (between Arlington and Cabrillo) features charcoal broiled steaks and prime ribs in addition to a full selection of other entrees.

Ten attractive waitresses will service the all-booth restaurant which has a capacity of 120 diners. A restful cocktail lounge, serviced by three courteous bartenders, is also featured. Continuous dinner music will be provided.

The Palms will be open from 11

Fill Third Reservoir

The third Torrance water reservoir off 101 Highway on Crenshaw Blvd. was filled Tuesday morning, according to Superintendent Angus McVicar of the Torrance Municipal Water Department.

Two other reservoirs are located one in North Torrance with a capacity of one million gallons and one at Torrance Blvd. with a two million gallon capacity.

a.m. to 2 a.m. seven days a week and from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Sundays. Luncheons will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinners from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., according to Ray Bell, co-owner of the establishment.

The restaurant is beautifully done in combination wood paneling. (Continued on Page 5)



THE PALMS... official opening of this new ultra-modern restaurant will be tomorrow, although the doors have been open already for a week. The establishment, which features an attractive cocktail lounge in addition to luncheons and dinners prepared from the finest foods, will be open seven days a week.